

Finishing the job

Finish filling the hole, firmly packing the soil in place with your hands. Be very careful to plant each seedling at the proper depth--its root collar must be level to one-half inch below the surface.

CARING FOR YOUR PLANTED SEEDLINGS

Watering

Be sure the root zone is saturated every 7- 10 days during dry periods. If the soil around the seedling subsides after watering, add soil to restore the grade. Deep watering once a week is better than light watering more often.

Controlling weeds

Control weed competition near seedlings for two to three years. You can use shallow cultivation or certain herbicides to control competing weeds and grasses. Be sure to follow label directions. You also can use weed barrier cloth to minimize weeds and grasses and reduce the loss of soil moisture.

Mulching and fertilizing

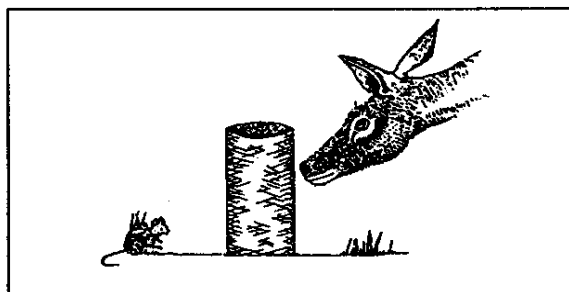
Mulching with a one-three-inch layer of organic matter will help hold soil moisture and reduce weed competition. Fertilizing may be beneficial, but it is not necessary. If you decide to fertilize, use formulated slow-release fertilizers designed for seedlings. Be

careful not to over fertilize during the first growing season. A small amount of fertilizer can burn the seedling before its root system is established.

Protecting plants from wildlife

Deer and rodent barriers may be necessary in heavily browsed areas. Some plant species are more susceptible to wildlife.

Protection from deer and rodents can get expensive. Cages may cost up to four times what you paid for the seedling. Repellent powders, tablets and liquids are also available, but their results are mixed.



For more information, contact Lone Peak Conservation Center, (801) 571-0900, or your local Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands office.



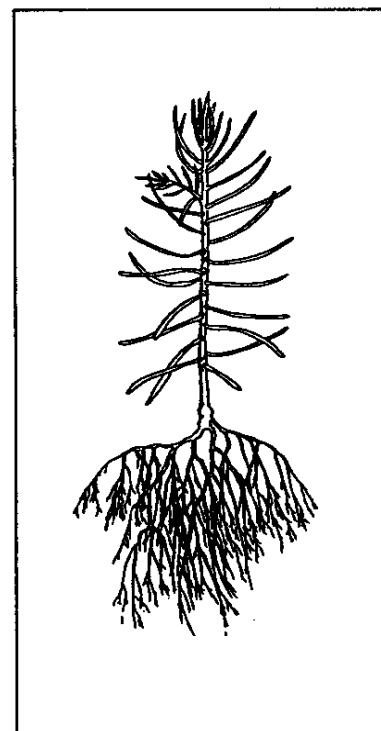
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PLANTING FOR SURVIVAL

Bareroot Seedlings



**STATE OF UTAH
NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands**

PLANTING BAREROOT SEEDLINGS

When to plant

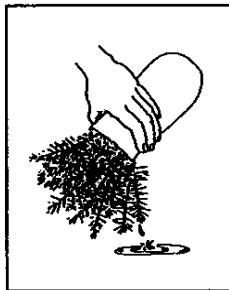
It is best to plant in early spring or fall when the soil moisture is highest and a variety of seedling species is available.

What to plant

Existing plant communities provide a hint about what kinds of plants will be successful. Native plants are an important factor to consider in Utah's arid and alkaline soils, especially when supplemental water may not be available. Consider soil type, elevation, existing plant communities, availability of water, and planting objectives in your plan.

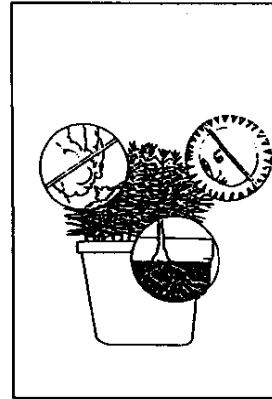
Storing bareroot seedlings

If you are able to plant seedlings within 10 days, leave them in the nursery package where their roots are protected in wet moss or a moist jelly-like polymer. Do not open the package until you are ready to plant. If you cannot plant your seedlings immediately, pour four ounces of water into each package every four to five days. Several minutes after each watering, tip the package to drain excess water. Store seedlings in a cool, shaded place such as an unheated garage, basement or cellar.



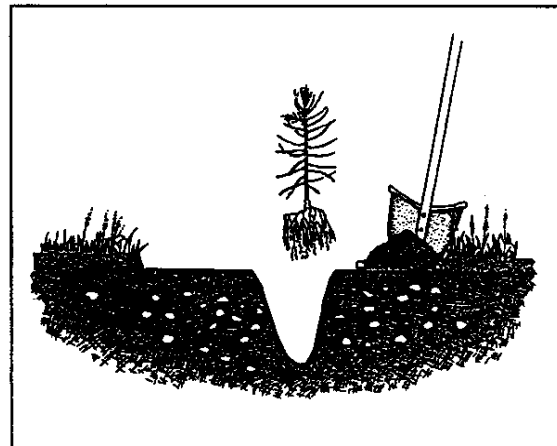
Preparing the site

When you are ready to plant your seedlings, carry them to the site in a pail of soupy mud and water. Do not let the roots become dry. Exposure to the sun and the wind for more than 15-20 seconds at any one time may kill a seedling.



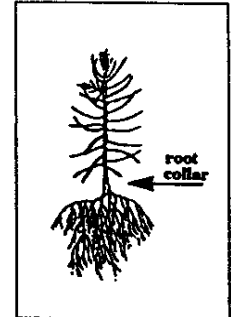
The planting hole

Clear surface vegetation from an area two to three feet wide for each seedling. This reduces competition from other plants for available moisture. Dig holes deep and wide enough (generally 12-15 inches deep and 10 inches wide) to accommodate roots in their natural position. Avoid digging all the holes at once so they don't fill with loose soil or dry out.



Planting depth

Gently lift one seedling out of the pail or nursery package. Place the roots in the hole by gently shaking the seedling so that its roots fall in a natural position.



How deep you plant the root system is important. A point of reference is the root collar, an area on the stem marked by the original nursery soil. The root collar is sometimes apparent by a change in color between stem and root or a swelling of stem size. The root collar should be planted even with or one-half inch deeper than the soil grade of the new planting hole. Too shallow a planting will expose the root stem to sun, causing the tender plant tissue to dry out.

Filling the planting hole

Fill the planting hole one-third full with soil. Pack soil around roots firmly with your hands to eliminate air pockets and soil settling. Add more soil until the hole is two-thirds full and continue to pack soil around roots with your hands. Try to avoid using large rocks, leaf litter and woody material as fill.

